Evidence Synthesis in the Biological and Natural Sciences

Survey Invitation Letter

Dear [insert title and name],

You are invited to participate in a study titled “Evidence Synthesis in the Biological and Natural Sciences” based on the publication of a recent scholarly article that used an evidence synthesis research methodology. The purpose of this study is to investigate how researchers as naturalists, ecologists, and biologists use evidence synthesis as a research tool. The first of two phases of this research study invite participants to complete a Qualtrics survey questionnaire that includes five questions and providing consent.

It is important to note that participation in this research study is voluntary. Participants are not compensated for their participation. Refusal to participate will involve no penalty and you may discontinue participation in the survey portion of this study at any time without penalty prior to clicking on the survey “submit” button. Data collected as a result of the online survey will be aggregated, stripped of self-identifying data, and not be coded or deposited in a repository to identify individual participants. As such, once survey instruments have been submitted there will be no way to redact individual data from this part of the study.

Completing the virtual survey instrument should take less than 15 minutes. Survey participants are invited to participate in a separate second phase of this research study by volunteering to participate in an online virtual interview or focus group that should take 30 minutes. The purpose of this meeting will be to discuss survey results.

The survey portion of this research investigation involves minimal risk. The questionnaire does not request participant contact information and if provided will be redacted from the data and discarded at the completion of this part of the study. Benefits of engaging in this study may result in self-reflection or learning more about how academic librarians reflect on their roles, qualifications, knowledge and expertise.

If you have any questions about this study or require further information, please contact Ian Gordon as the principal investigator.

This study has been reviewed and received ethics clearance through the Brock University Social Science Research Ethics Board (SREB) file 25-118 - GORDON. If you have any comments or concerns about your rights as a research participant, please contact the Office @ (905) 688-5550 Ext. 3035 or email reb@brocku.ca.

Evidence Synthesis in the Biological and Natural Sciences Survey questionnaire.

Thank you, your participation is gratefully acknowledged and appreciated.

Ian and co-investigators.

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